

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 12-16 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13 are amended herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9 and 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goring (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0077892) in view of Okamoto (U.S. Pat. No. 4,985,850). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a method of controlling a printing apparatus having stored therein in advance predetermined image data so as to correspond to payment transaction print data generated based on input information concerning merchandise sales. The printing apparatus is arranged to print the predetermined image data by adding the image data upon receipt of the payment transaction print data by the printing apparatus. The method comprises the steps of: obtaining the payment transaction print data; retrieving a predetermined character string indicative of a print position of the image data to be printed from the payment transaction print data; obtaining a line number specified by the retrieved predetermined character string; adding the image data to the payment transaction print data based on the obtained line number so as to print the image data with a position specified by the line number serving as a reference to obtain a synthesized print result; and printing the image data so that the image data is superposed on the payment transaction print data.

Similarly, claim 13 calls for a printing apparatus which stores therein in advance predetermined image data so as to correspond to payment transaction print data generated by a host computer based on input information concerning merchandise sales. The printing apparatus is arranged to print the predetermined image data upon receipt of the payment transaction print data by the printing apparatus. The printing apparatus comprises: means for storing the image data; means for obtaining the payment transaction print data from the host computer; means for obtaining from the host computer an image addition setting command for printing with the image data being added; means for analyzing the image addition setting command to thereby obtain a line number indicative of a print position of the image data; means for generating the receipt print data by adding the image data to the payment transaction print data based on the line number; and means for printing the image data so that the image data is superposed on the payment transaction print data.

Thus, both independent claims 1 and 13 call for the image data to be superposed on the payment transaction print data. Support for this subject matter can be found at least at paragraphs [0011], [0087], [0106] and [0127] of the specification as originally filed. This feature is different than the prior art. More particularly, in Goring, the graphic is printed on the receipt as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, but the graphic is not superposed on the payment transaction print data as claimed.

Regarding Okamoto, the image data corresponds to the input character information and is dot information converted by the CPU. On the other hand, the image data file of the claimed invention is data which does not correlate with the input character information. Also, since the claimed invention can print the image data

superposed on the payment transaction print data as described above, it has an advantage of printing various types of receipts over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing it can be appreciated that even if Goring is combined with Okamoto, the combination does not yield the invention as claimed. As such, the prior art cannot render claims 1 or 13 obvious and therefore claims 1 and 13 should be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, since claims 2-9 and 12 depend from claim 1, claims 2-9 and 12 should be in condition for allowance. Similarly, since claims 14-16 depend from claim 13, claims 14-16 should also be in condition for allowance.

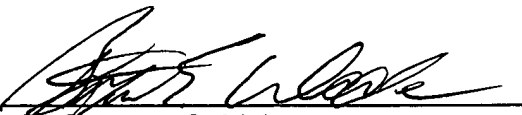
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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